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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 400  
By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION relative to participation by minority physicians in primary health care practices in underserved communities.

WHEREAS, minority communities are often the victims of inadequate health care delivery systems, and are consequently underserved by traditional health care providers; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds that minority physicians should be encouraged in their efforts to establish primary health care practices in Tennessee communities that are underserved by health care providers, and especially underserved African American communities; and

WHEREAS, minority physicians overcome many societal and economic obstacles to become certified in the practice of medicine; and

WHEREAS, minority physicians are capable of making many valuable contributions to improving the health and welfare of Tennesseans, if only they are given viable opportunities to do so; and

WHEREAS, the Black Health Care Commission is statutorily charged with the responsibility of defining and establishing the components, guidelines and objectives of a comprehensive state policy to ensure and promote the present and future health of all black Tennessee citizens; and

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WHEREAS, the Black Health Care Commission should utilize all available state resources to encourage minority physicians to employ their expertise and talents to serve the best interests of all Tennesseans; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the Black Health Care Commission is hereby directed to promulgate and implement policies and procedures to encourage minority physicians to establish primary care practices in communities underserved by health care providers, and especially underserved African American communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in promulgating such policies and procedures, the Tennessee Black Health Care Commission shall give consideration to establishing or developing financial incentives to be extended to minority physicians to establish primary health care practices in underserved communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Black Health Care Commission shall report its progress in promulgating and implementing such policies and procedures, including any proposed legislation, to the One-Hundredth General Assembly no later than January 15, 1998.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Black Health Care Commission.